GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
SUPPORT PRICE FOR CROPS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced minimum support price for rabi and kharif crops during the year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the price declared during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems being faced by the farmers;

(d) whether the criteria used for fixing Minimum Support Price have become outdated and failed to delivered the desired benefits; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to devise a better criterion for fixing the Minimum Support Price?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The Government has announced/fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of rabi crops for 2007-08 season on 9th October, 2007, while the MSPs of kharif crops of 2007-08 season were announced/fixed on 17th May 2007.

(b): A statement indicating the Minimum Support Prices of kharif and rabi crops for the last three years is enclosed (Annexure - I).

(c): In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the retuns to farmers, besides MSP schemes, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilisation of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rain fed farming systems and reforming agricultural markets. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) schemes have been launched with a view to maximize returns to the farmers.

(d)&(e): The methodology adopted for fixation of MSPs has been instrumental in agricultural pricing. In 2003, the Government had set up an Expert Committee to examine the methodological issues in fixation of MSPs. Its recommendations are cleared by the Committee of Secretaries.